

LISTINGS OF THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A thin-film magnetic head comprising:
a lower core layer formed so as to extend in a height direction from a surface opposing a recording medium;

a magnetic layer connected to the lower core layer directly or indirectly at a position spaced from an opposing surface in the height direction by a predetermined distance; and

a coil layer toroidally winding around the magnetic layer,
wherein the toroidal coil layer is connected to a plurality of first coil pieces formed between the lower core layer and the magnetic layer and a plurality of second coil pieces formed on the magnetic layer, and

wherein upper surfaces of the first coil pieces are covered with an insulating layer other than connection surfaces to the second coil pieces, the connection surfaces of the first coil pieces being raised upward and exposed from upper surface of the insulating layer so that the second coil pieces are formed in contact with the connection surfaces of the first coil pieces.

2. (Previously Presented) A head according to Claim 1, further comprising a raised layer provided on the lower core layer at a position spaced in a track width direction from a center of the lower core layer in a track width direction,

wherein part of the first coil pieces is mounted on the raised layer, part of the upper surfaces of the first coil pieces being exposed from the upper surface of the insulating layer at a position on that the first coil pieces mount, so that the exposed surface becomes the connecting surface.

3. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 2, wherein an upper surface of the raised layer is a flattening surface, and at least part of the first coil pieces mounted on the flattening surface becomes the connecting surface.

4. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 3, wherein the first coil pieces are formed partway the flattening surface.

5. (Previously Presented) A head according to Claim 2, wherein an upper surface of the raised layer is a curved surface, and part of the first coil pieces mounted on the curved surface becomes the connecting surface.

6. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 5, wherein the first coil pieces are formed partway the curved surface.

7. (Original) A head according to Claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the insulating layer and the connection surfaces of the first coil pieces are an identical flattening surface.

8. (Original) A head according to Claim 2, wherein the raised layer intersects under a plurality of the first coil pieces.

9. (Original) A head according to Claim 2, wherein the raised layer is arranged under each of the first coil pieces.

10. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 1, wherein on the lower core layer, a lower magnetic polar layer, a gap layer, and an upper magnetic polar layer, which is the magnetic layer, are deposited in that order from beneath so as to form a deposited structure, and a track width T_w is determined by a width of the deposited structure on the opposing surface in a track width direction.

11. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 1, wherein on the lower core layer, at least a lower magnetic polar layer, a gap layer formed of a non-magnetic metallic material, and an upper magnetic polar layer are plated in that order from beneath so as to form a magnetic-polar tip layer with a track width T_w defined by a width of an end face adjacent to an opposing surface to a recording medium in a track width direction, and on the magnetic-polar tip layer, the magnetic layer is deposited.

12. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 11, wherein a saturated magnetic induction density of the magnetic layer is lower than that of the upper magnetic polar layer.

13. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 1, wherein a length of the second coil pieces in a first direction perpendicular to a flowing direction of an electric current is larger than that of the first coil pieces in the first direction.

14. (Withdrawn) A head according to Claim 1, wherein a film thickness of the second coil pieces is larger than that of the first coil pieces.

15 – 23 (Cancelled).